



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

2014 Field Day

Dick Williams, W3OA

N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
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W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
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It's not too early to start thinking about Field Day. Operations will be Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29. CDXA will be operating W4DXA from the Lake Norman QTH of WW4CP, Chris Price. The picture shows Chris and Duane, AG4C, operating Field Day last year wearing the handsome tee shirts each CDXA participant received. We will have a similar, but different color, shirt again. This year, people who sign up to participate early will get to vote on the shirt color. Next month's Pileup will have more details on our plans.

For now, please put June 28 and 29 on your calendar and let me know when you can operate and your preferred mode, CW or SSB. I also need your tee shirt size and vote for the color. Email me at w3oa@roadrunner.com.



CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

Breaking News

This Press Release showed up in my e-mail inbox the first of the month. It thought I better pass it on in case anyone missed it....

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Effective immediately, the FCC is restructuring the Amateur Radio Licensing Procedures.

Washington, DC, April 1st, 2014. Today, the FCC has announced sweeping changes to the process of granting and controlling Amateur Radio Licenses. The Commission says this is the first step in a complete revision of all its licensing operations, and is based on ongoing serious budget constraints.

The existing license classes of Technician, General, and Extra will remain as they are now, and carry the same operating privileges. Anyone wishing to obtain a license, including, but not limited to, those holding existing licenses valid before April 1, 2014, will pay the following fees for a 5 year, renewable license.

Technician Class License: \$100.00

General Class License: \$200.00

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The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](#), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Extra Class License: \$300.00.

The payment of the applicable fee grants the applicant a license commensurate with the amount of payment. The former examination requirements are hereby waived.

The above fees DO NOT include the issuance of a specific call sign. New call signs will be issued to all Applicants, with the Call Area number reflecting the Applicant's current residence. Calls will have two letter prefixes and three or four letter suffixes. In accordance with international agreements, all calls must begin with the letters A, K, N, or W. If an Applicant desires a specific call sign, this service is available for the following additional fees:

One letter prefix and one letter suffix: \$1,000.00

One letter prefix and two letter suffix: \$750.00

Two letter prefix and one letter suffix: \$750.00

One letter prefix and three letter suffix: \$500.00

Two letter prefix and two letter suffix: \$500.00

Two letter prefix and three letter suffix: \$250.00
(for a call not randomly assigned.)

All specific calls will be available on a first come first served basis.

All those holding valid licenses prior to April 1, 2014, have a thirty day grace period during which they may continue to operate while their new Application is being processed.

Applications are available at www.fffceecce.guy.

We accept Paypal.

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73, your editor, N4A ...formerly NV4A

DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 11 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2013 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of March 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	241	40	281
K5EK	Unlimited	240	40	280
W4HG	Unlimited	227	40	267
WA4DT	Unlimited	225	40	265
K8YC	Unlimited	203	37	240
N4PQX	Unlimited	185	40	225
W3ZL	Formula	181	34	215
KZ2I	Unlimited	171	40	211
W7DO	Unlimited	165	37	202
W3OA	Unlimited	156	37	193
W3GQ	Unlimited	154	37	191
NV4A	Unlimited	149	36	185
W4UFO	Unlimited	150	34	184
AA4SC	Unlimited	134	40	174
N2TU	Unlimited	129	34	163
NK0S	Unlimited	109	33	142
K4DXA	Unlimited	109	32	141
WA4DT	Unlimited	92	30	122
K2SX	Unlimited	83	33	116
W4WNT	Formula	88	23	111
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

From the Department of Really Bad Jokes

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep. Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, 'Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?

The Lone Ranger replies, 'I see millions of stars.' What that tell you?' asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, 'Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What's it tell you, Tonto?'

"You dumber than I thought, Kemo Sabe! It mean someone stole the tent."

Thanks (I think) to Dennis, K2SX.

The Wayback Machine

Let's take the Wayback Machine back to look at what was happening in the Club, as reported in the first few issues of the *Pileup* ...

10 Years Ago: The results of the 2003 CWAC, held along with the fall CQWW DX Contest were announced. The overall winners in each category were awarded "a fine gauge sweater vest" from Land's End, embroidered with the CDXA club logo and their call signs, which were, by the way, W3GQ, AA4V, N4PQX and AA4NN. There were other nice prizes awarded too, including "long sleeve pinpoint oxford shirt(s)" with call and logo, a "fleece crew sweat shirt", and a bunch of short sleeve tee shirts. Participants with more than 250 contacts in the spring ARRL Contest got hats with CDXA logos. ...It was a good year for contest prizes.

There was a very detailed technical article entitled "[Where Do the K and A Indices Come From?](#)" in the January *Pileup* that still makes an interesting read. Just click on the link to read the article. BPL was already becoming a hot, and much debated topic. In addition to the ARRL's comments to the FCC, others were weighing in with concerns as well.

New members during the first quarter of 2004 included Tom and Mary Hunt.

The February *Pileup* started with an article by Marc, N4UFP, on "DXing on Mars." Marc explains that Mars, like earth, has an ionosphere, but that Mars' ionosphere is less complex, with one daytime layer and two nighttime layers. Marc concludes that, based on research, only the lower frequency bands could be expected to work well for long-haul communications. ...Something to keep in mind if you're planning an extra-terrestrial DXpedition.

The March edition reported that Joe, AA4NN, was getting ready to head off to Banaba for the T33C DXpedition. (...and he's still going strong today. Ed.)

20 Years Ago: Don, WZ3Q, took the reins as *Pileup* Editor in January, and started publishing the newsletter on a monthly basis.

The February edition of the 1994 *Pileup* includes an editorial discussing operating skills. This sentence pretty much sums it up; "Good operators get that way by operating."

The March issue let everyone know that the Hamfest Banquet was being held the Saturday night of the Hamfest, at Valentino's Restaurant on East Independence Blvd.

The March issue had a copy of the notes from the very first CDXA meeting on 19 July, 1981, with President Roger Burt, N4ZC, presiding. There were 17 attendees listed. The yearly dues were set at \$10.00, with an additional \$25.00 for using the repeater.

Going a lot further back....

The Eiffel Tower is 125 years old this year. ... What does that have to do with ham radio? Maybe not much specifically, except that I imagine a lot of HTs and QRP rigs have been used from the top of the Tower over the years. However, the Eiffel Tower, which is a bit over 1,000 feet tall, has been used for radio transmission since the beginning of the 20th century. Until the 1950s, sets of antenna wires ran from the summit to anchors on nearby streets. According to Wikipedia, these were connected to long-wave transmitters in small bunkers. In 1909 a permanent underground radio center, which still exists today, was built near the Tower. On 20 November 1913, the Paris Observatory, using the Tower as an antenna (!), exchanged sustained wireless signals with the United States Naval Observatory which used an antenna in Arlington, VA. The object of the transmissions was to measure the difference in longitude between Paris and D.C. Today, both radio and television stations broadcast their signals from the top of the Eiffel Tower. ...Just imagine putting a big ol' log periodic on the top of that thing.

April, 2014

The Back Page

- Field Day is coming June 28 and 29. Check your calendars, and get ready to sign up. More details will be included in the May *Pileup*.
- The race for DX King continues to be tight, with the top four entrants all having worked all 40 CQ zones.
- The Wayback Machine looks at *Pileups* past, from 10 and 20 years ago, and at a really cool antenna tower ...the Eiffel Tower.
- Next month we're going to look at one ham's experience with his visit to the FCC to take his General exam, courtesy of Ken, W4NZC. I'd love to add other stories from us "old hams" who had to suffer through the dreaded trip to the FCC. Anyone willing to share????
- Speaking of sharing; any articles, ideas for articles, old/new pictures, old QSL cards, bad jokesyou get the idea, would be appreciated.
- See you next month.

John, NV4A

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.